



## Soil and Water News in Culpeper County

### Low Impact Development Information Session Held in Culpeper



Parking lot bioretention area at Germanna Center for Advanced Technology in Culpeper

On September 27, 2006, the District presented an information session on rainwater harvesting and alternative stormwater management to members of the Culpeper Board of Supervisors, Town Council and selected individuals from surrounding counties (Orange Town Planner, Fauquier Planners and Rappahannock County Administrator). Among the speakers were David Crawford from Rainwater Management Solutions, Inc. and Richard Price from The Folsom Group.

David Crawford made a presentation on the benefits of Rainwater Harvesting. He demonstrated the cost savings by tapping into this available resource and reducing the demand for upgrading capacity at water treatment plants. Factors to consider when developing a rainwater harvesting system include water quality, costs, supply and demand. For more information about rainwater harvesting, visit [www.rainwatermanagement.com](http://www.rainwatermanagement.com).

Richard Price, architect and planner, discussed various alternative stormwater management systems. He touched on green roof systems, porous pavers and bioretention. Each practice has a purpose and can be effective in stormwater management facilities. Mr. Price highlighted the ongoing progress of implementing these practices in Virginia. Combinations of these practices provide the greatest benefits for a site.

### District and Partners Receive State Awards for Conservation

The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) held its Annual Meeting December 3-5 in Roanoke, Virginia. In attendance were Culpeper SWCD District Manager Greg Wichelns and a number of Board members.

**Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District** received the **June Sekoll Media Award** from the Virginia Soil & Water Conservation Society. The Award is for an individual or group that writes or produces materials for radio, television, newspapers, magazines, or organizational publications that significantly increase public understanding and promote wise use of Virginia's natural resources. CSWCD was recognized for its Quarterly Newsletter, Annual Report, Blueprint, Rainwater Harvesting guide, websites for the District ([www.culpeper.vaswcd.org](http://www.culpeper.vaswcd.org)) & Upper Rappahannock Stream Monitoring Program (<http://rappmonitor.va.nacdnet.org>) and for the Moving Dirt, Reporting Water Pollution and Low Impact Development for Rappahannock County Brochures.

Culpeper County Director **Laura Ann Stevenson Campbell** received the **Watershed Connections Award** for the Rappahannock River Basin from VASWCD for her efforts to promote conservation locally, within the River Basin and in Richmond. Mrs. Campbell was appointed an Associate Director in 1989 and has been a Director representing Culpeper County since 1990. She owns and operates Croftburn Farm, a beef cattle and sheep operation in Culpeper County. Mrs. Campbell has implemented many soil and water conservation techniques on her farm and is a participant in the state and federal conservation cost-share programs. For her conservation efforts, she has been awarded the "Outstanding Forage Producer" by the Virginia Forage and Grasslands Council and was selected as a "Bay Friendly" farm by the Culpeper Soil and Water District.



Culpeper County Director  
Laura Ann Stevenson  
Campbell

If you would like a copy of the manual, or for more information about best management practices, reporting pollution, moving dirt and other issues regarding soil and water conservation, please contact Stephanie Rose DeNicola, Communications Specialist of Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District at (540) 825-8591.

Virginia Cooperative Extension Services



Bullying

Linda G. Murphy, Senior Extension Agent  
Family & Consumer Sciences

Bullying has been an issue with youth for a long time. But it seems to be a growing concern and is related to young peoples’ fear of violence. According to a study by the Kaiser Family Foundation and Nickelodeon, 55% of 8-11 year-olds and 69% of 12-15 year-olds say that bullying is a big problem. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported 25 % of students 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades admitted to bullying another student several times. It also reported that 80 % of middle school students reported engaging in some form of bullying during the past 30 days, with 15% doing so frequently. Clearly parents, teachers, youth leaders and workers need to be alert to this problem and how to combat it. It takes a team effort to change the culture or climate in which it occurs, whether it is in the school, the neighborhood, or the community. It does not need to be just a part of growing up.

What is bullying? Bullying involves are those actions that result in physical and/or mental anguish to those who are the targets. It includes hitting, kicking, pushing, shoving or knocking people down and throwing things. It includes threats to others, teasing, name-calling, swearing, excluding from a group, or sending mean notes or e-mails. Bullying is most frequent in grades 2 through 6, most serious in grades 7 through 9, and then tapers off after that.

What can parents do? Be alert to signs of problems that may be related to bullying. Youth who are bullied are more likely than other children to be depressed, lonely, anxious, have low self-esteem, be absent from school, or feel sick. Keep lines of communication open. It is the only way to identify if this is what is going on.

Focus on your child. Be supportive as you gather information on what is happening. If this is happening in school, contact the child’s teacher or principal. Help your child become more resilient to bullying by providing non-violent ways to handle the situation. Teach your child assertive, not aggressive, responses. Hitting back does not solve the issue. It usually creates bigger and possibly more serious problems. Being a good role model in using cooperative ways to solve problems goes a long way in providing them the tools to handle situations. It should also include when to walk away and who to report to.

If your child is doing the bullying, you may need to teach your child to recognize and express emotions nonviolently. Emphasize talking out the issue rather than hitting. Again, model the behavior you want your children to exhibit. Be clear that aggressive behavior will not be tolerated. Talk with them about the consequences to others of bullying techniques to promote empathy. If adults and youth work together, bullying can be eliminated.

Learn more about this issue and how it affects our young people. But even more important, learn what you can do as a caring adult to combat this problem by logging into [www.StopBullyingNow.hrsa.gov](http://www.StopBullyingNow.hrsa.gov)

Sources: Pitzer, R. *Bullies Make Life Miserable for Many Kids*, University of Minnesota Extension Service.  
*Bullying Among Children and Youth*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA Stop Bullying Now campaign.

Smart Choices Nutrition Education Program Assistant Receives Award

Felecia Chavez, Program Assistant, Smart Choices Nutrition Education Program (SCNEP) for Adults, received the Outstanding Community Health Worker of the Year Award from the Virginia Center for Health Outreach.

As a program assistant for the Virginia Cooperative Extension SCNEP, Chavez educates low-income families on the fundamentals of nutrition, meal planning, preparation of low-cost balanced meals, management of food resources and food buying, and supplies them with materials to jump-start a more nutritional lifestyle. Her activities include a “Nutrition Buddies” program partnering senior clients with pre-school children, and a “Super Pantry” program that provides participants with a bag of groceries after each class.

But food information is of little use when families are without food. Chavez was surprised to learn that there was no source of supplemental emergency food for limited-resource families in the area. To address this need, Chavez collaborated with various human-service agencies to form “Empowering Culpeper,” a group dedicated to providing supplemental food through the United States Department of Agriculture Commodity Food Program.\* When word spread to surrounding counties, Chavez gathered the necessary information, resources and manpower to also offer limited-resource families in Rappahannock County supplemental food on a monthly basis.

In addition to her SCNEP responsibilities, Chavez dedicates 36 hours or more per program, per month, ordering, packing and distributing food to needy families. Chavez has hauled commodities in her personal vehicle and paid monthly delivery fees out of her own pocket just to make sure no one in Culpeper, Madison, Orange, or Rappahannock counties go hungry.

Chavez’s concern for human need is not limited to the northern Piedmont. Last year she took leave to work in Texas and Louisiana serving as a Red Cross volunteer in an effort to assist the families displaced by hurricanes Rita and Katrina.

\*Every third Saturday is USDA Food Distribution at Providence Bible Church off of Old Brandy Road from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

www.ext.vt.edu  
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# Spring 2007

Spring 2007

By Susan Hensley

**KID CENTRAL**  
1401 Old Fredericksburg Rd  
Culpeper, VA 22701  
(540) 829-2124  
kidcentralculpeperva.com

**Director:**  
**Dorenda Pullen**  
(540) 829-2124

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

**March 29**  
Kid Central Team  
"BEE" For Literacy

**March 30**  
"Where the Wind Blows"  
All Day Care

**April 6-10**  
"Spring into Spring"  
All Day Care

**April 16**  
Kid Central Summer Day  
Camp Registration Opens

**May 28**  
Kid Central CLOSED  
Memorial Day

**June** – Kid Central  
Summer Day Camp  
Opens

**KID CENTRAL** is  
all about  
**FUN!**

## FUN, FUN AND MORE FUN!

**KICK OFF YOUR SHOES AND WIGGLE YOUR TOES.** There's no more winter and no more snow. Spring is coming with tons to do....Kid Central is ready...

### We Just Need YOU!

Less than four more months of school, and Kid Central will make sure the best is yet to come.

**Homework Club** continues to offer assistance in making sure there is time to complete homework and have time to enjoy the great outdoors.

**Sports Teams** are gearing up for outside sports, with kickball, soccer and wiffle ball.

**Crafts** are planned both to accent your room and to impress your friends and family. Mother's Day crafts are always a special creation.

**Cooking Projects** continue to tantalize the taste buds, and who says, "Sweet can't be healthy"?

**Outside** is the place to be, now that the weather is warmer. What better way to



spend the afternoon than laughing with good friends and creating memories?!

**COME JOIN THE FUN at KID CENTRAL After School!**

## TIME TRAVELING...Summer Day Camp

**FLYERS WILL ANNOUNCE KID CENTRAL Summer Day Camp Start Date.** Make sure you are watching!

**Wishing America her 400th Happy Birthday,** Summer Day Camp will travel through time to see how we all arrive here from the year 1607.

**Activities for the summer** will include, but not be limited to, Swimming, Skating, Bowling, Crafting, Inventing, plus Art

Class, Gym Games, Outside & Inside Sports, Reading, Computer Class, Skit Productions and more.

The camp will open each day at 6:30a.m. and close at 6:30p.m. Monday-Friday. Kid Central will be closed July 4th.

Each 2-Week Session will include a field trip guaranteed to please all children ages 5-12 years.

Watch for flyers and more information as registration begins on **April 16th** at each of the Five Elementary Schools' After School Programs.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 829-2124**



763 Madison Rd Ste 208/209•Culpeper,VA 22701  
 (540) 829-2065•FAX: (540) 829-0297  
[www.healthyculpeper.org](http://www.healthyculpeper.org)

## EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING

If you're a **parent**, a **provider**, or an **early childhood professional**, there are many training opportunities available locally and regionally to sharpen your skills—the full training calendar is available on the Healthy Culpeper website (under Early Childhood Committee-Learn More on the Home Page):



1. The Childcare Network (Fredericksburg)-*Helping Them Grow, Keeping Kids Healthy, Bad Behavior Blues-Effective Guidance for Challenging Children, First Aid & CPR*; Fee charged
2. Culpeper Extension Office-*Living Apart, Parenting Together, Keeping Your Children Healthy & Safe, How to Turn Good Play into Great Play, Basic Parenting, Parenting Cooperative Program*; Fee charged on some; online and video-based series also available
3. Culpeper Regional Hospital-*Infant CPR, Infant Care & Car Seat Safety*; Fee charged
4. Mary Washington Hospital (Fredericksburg)-*Baby Steps, Babysitting & Child Safety, Infant CPR, Heart-saver, Child CPR & First Aid, Basic First Aid, Infant Massage, Infant and Toddler Nutrition*; Fee charged
5. Families First (Culpeper)-*Parenting your 1-4 Year Old*; Small fee for materials
6. VA Department of Social Services-Geared towards Providers—*Building Blocks for Healthy Active Kids, Every Child Ready to Read, Exploring Brain Development Series, Fit Kidz Series-Preschoolers on the Move, How Children Learn, Mother Goose asks Why?, Mother Goose Cares about the Early Years, Nurturing Productive Partnerships with Parents, Observation & Recording: It's Not always Obvious, Playground Safety, Preventing Injuries in the Child Care Environment, Reframing Discipline Series*; Fee charged
7. Fauquier Health System (Warrenton)-*Baby Care Essentials, Babysitting, First Aid-Adult/Infant/Child CPR, First Aid-Infant/Child CPR*; Fee charged



## FOR A CHILD'S HEALTH-APRIL 28, 2007

*A health fair focused on children's needs*  
**Culpeper County Library: 1-4 p.m.**

**Families First  
is presenting a brand new parenting program called  
“Parenting Your 1 – 4 Year-Old”**

Families First is offering a program for parents of children under the age of 5. Come join other parents and share all your successes and challenges of raising a toddler. Learn new skills to use with your child.

Children don’t come with instructions and parenting can be one of the hardest, yet most rewarding jobs in the world! What will be learned?

**Session I**

Getting acquainted  
Parenting: A special job.  
The ages and stages of development.  
How will you parent?  
Building the bond between your child and you.  
Activities to try at home.

**Session II**

Share and tell.  
How to use non-violent discipline skills.  
Tips on avoiding accidents and problems.  
The “A-C-T” of parenting.  
About rules.

**Session III**

Choices and consequences.  
The power of encouragement.  
Caring for the caregiver.

The 2007 3-week sessions begin on:

April 4, May 2, June 6,  
July 11, August 1, September 5,  
October 3, November 7, and December 5

Each session runs for 3 Wednesdays from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Culpeper Regional Hospital Conference Room. There is a \$15.00 charge for a parent handbook. No day-care is provided.

**To enroll in the Families First Parenting Program please call 829-2065 ext. 309 or come by the offices at 763 Madison Road, Suite 209, Culpeper, Virginia 22701.**

**The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)**

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of locally-based medical, public health, and other volunteers who help to strengthen the public health system of their communities. Nationwide the MRC has grown to 617 units, in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Guam, Palau, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

“Local communities are benefiting from stronger public health systems and better emergency preparedness because of the work of the volunteers who serve the Medical Reserve Corps,” said Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt.

The Medical Reserve Corps program, housed in the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General in the Department of Health and Human Services, began as a demonstration project with 42 community-based units in July 2002. Since then, in addition to 617 MRC units, the Corps has almost 113,299 volunteers to provide medical and public health support. The Medical Reserve Corps continues to expand its strength and reach each day, as local, state and national officials and response partners recognize the program and its large pool of volunteers as an asset.

“Medical Reserve Corps volunteers prepare for and respond to emergencies, but they can also support local public health initiatives, which is exactly where we need skills and energy,” said Acting U.S. Surgeon General RADM Kenneth Moritsugu. Our com-

munities need to be better prepared for a variety of situations.

If a disaster strikes a community, trained MRC units and volunteers will respond when called. By working with preparedness, response, health, and other partners on an ongoing basis, MRC units are a part of the local infrastructure. Volunteers are prescreened, trained and identified, with medical credentials verified to ensure their immediate availability to provide aid. Volunteers without health care experience are welcome, as a variety of skills are needed.

Our local unit of the MRC, the Rappahannock-Rapidan Medical Reserve Corps (RRMRC), started in October of 2004. Today the RRMRC has 335 registered volunteers, and continues to grow.

If you would like to become a volunteer with this unit, which covers the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock, join us for orientation and training. We offer monthly trainings with a variety of interesting topics. Volunteers should attend one training each year, but are welcome to attend as many as they would like. RRMRC volunteers are trained and prepared to volunteer in the case of a natural or man-made disaster.

For more information call 540-829-7350 or email [RRMRC@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:RRMRC@vdh.virginia.gov). Applications and more information can be found at <http://rrmrc.vdh.virginia.gov>

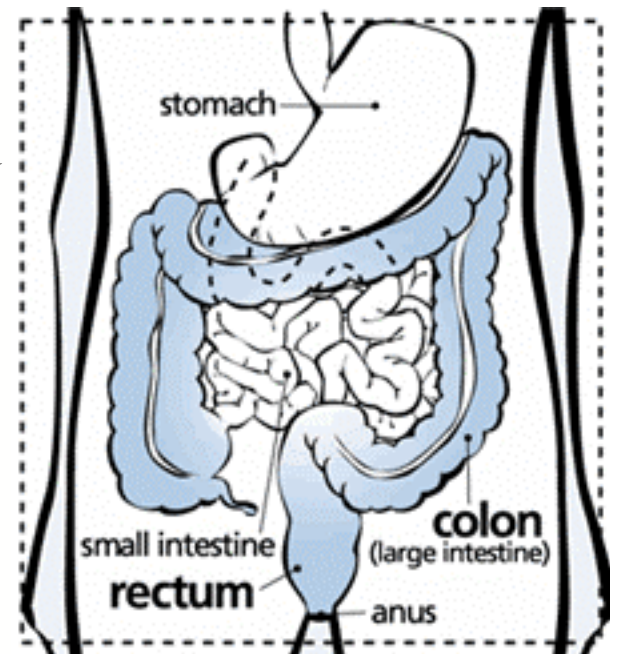


## Culpeper County Health Department

### Colorectal Cancer

Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer deaths for both men and women in Virginia. People over the age of 50 account for 95% of the reported colorectal cancer cases. Men are more likely than women, and African Americans are more likely than Caucasians, to die from colorectal cancer.

Colorectal cancer, also known as colon cancer, is a type of cancer that develops in the colon or rectum. The colon and rectum are at the end of the digestive system. The colon, the first part of the large intestine, absorbs food and water and stores waste materials. The rectum, the last six inches of the large intestine, connects the colon to the anus where waste material is passed out of the body during bowel movements.



Most forms of colorectal cancer begin with precancerous polyps (abnormal growths) on the walls of the colon or rectum. Polyps grow slowly over a period of several years and may turn into cancer, if they are not found and treated. Regular screenings are the best way to find and remove these polyps.

Experts estimate that 50%-60% of colorectal deaths could be prevented by routine screenings. All men and women over the age of 50 should be screened for colorectal cancer. A variety of colorectal cancer screening tools are available. Some may be used alone, or they may be used in a combination with each other. The main screening tools are:

- Fecal occult blood tests (FOBT) – This test checks for occult or hidden blood in bowel movements and should be done every year. FOBT is an at-home test where a small amount of three bowel movements is collected. The sample is returned to your healthcare provider where it will be tested for hidden blood.
- Colonoscopy – This test allows a physician to examine the lining of the rectum and colon for polyps. A thin, flexible, lighted tube is inserted into the rectum and colon. If polyps are found, most can be removed during the screening. This test should be done every 10 years.

Your healthcare provider may suggest other tests that can also detect colorectal cancer.

Many people do not have symptoms of colorectal cancer, especially at first. However, if any of the following symptoms occur, you should see your healthcare provider:

- Blood in or on your bowel movement
- Unexplained weight loss
- Weakness or fatigue
- Unexplained and frequent pain, aches or cramps in your stomach
- A change in bowel habits lasting more than a few days, such as diarrhea, constipation or having bowel movements that are narrower than usual

These symptoms may also be caused by illnesses other than colorectal cancer.

For more information about colorectal cancer and screenings visit [www.vahealth.org/cancerprevention](http://www.vahealth.org/cancerprevention) or call the Culpeper County Health Department at 540/829-7350.

*Mary K. Collins, M.S. – Health Educator*

## Culpeper County Launches Prescription Drug Discount Card Savings for UNINSURED and UNDERINSURED Residents

### *Discount Cards Offering Average Savings of 20 Percent Off Retail Price*

Culpeper County is pleased to announce the availability of a discount card program to help consumers cope with the high price of prescription drugs. The County is making free prescription drug discount cards available under a program sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo) that offers average savings of 20 percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs.

The cards may be used by all County residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage, and are accepted at various County pharmacies. A national network of more than 57,000 participating retail pharmacies also will honor the NACo prescription discount card.

"Culpeper County is proud to be one of the counties nationwide participating with NACo," said Sheila D. Farmer-Dumas, Risk Manager. "The NACo prescription discount card offers significant savings for the uninsured and underinsured residents of our County, and even those fortunate to have prescription coverage can use the card to save money on drugs that are not covered by their health plan. Residents do not have to be Medicare beneficiaries to be eligible for this program."

Best of all, there is no cost to County taxpayers for NACo and Culpeper County to make these money-saving cards available to our residents.

Cards are available at the following locations: Culpeper County Department of Human Services, Sam's Place, Culpeper County Health Department, Culpeper County Treasurer's Office, Culpeper County Commissioner of the Revenue's Office, Extension Services Office, Culpeper County Library, Culpeper Pharmacy, CVS Pharmacy, Rite Aid Pharmacy, Safeway Pharmacy and Wal-Mart Pharmacy.

County residents can call toll free 1-877-321-2652 or visit <https://naco.advancerox.com> for assistance with the program.

The NACo prescription discount card is easy to use. Simply present it at a participating pharmacy. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance. One card per family is all that is needed.

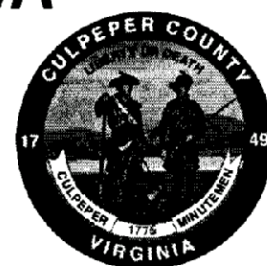
The discount card program is administered by Caremark Rx, Inc.



## Culpeper County, VA

Prescription Discount Card

RXBIN: 004336  
RXPCN: ADV  
RXGRP: RXCULVA  
ISSUER: (80840)  
ID: NAJ52236901



**This plan is not insurance.**

### What is it?

- **A Card to save on prescription drugs**
- **Free Enrollment for County Residents**
- **Average savings of 20%**
- **No limits**
- **No age requirements—you do NOT need to be a Medicare beneficiary to enroll**
- **No income requirements**
- **Family coverage**
- **Use it anytime your prescription is not covered by insurance**
- **Offered jointly by Culpeper County and the National Association of Counties (NACo)**
- **For more information call toll free 1-877-321-2652 or visit <https://naco.advancerox.com> or visit [www.culpepercounty.gov](http://www.culpepercounty.gov) and click on NACo**

### Participating Pharmacies:

**CULPEPER PHARMACY**  
261 SOUTHGATE  
Phone: (540) 825-7576  
**CVS PHARMACY**  
150 MADISON RD  
Phone: (540) 825-8322  
**RITE AID PHARMACY**  
590 MADISON RD  
Phone: (540) 727-0483

**RITE AID PHARMACY**  
705 DOMINION SQUARE  
Phone: (540) 825-0703  
**SAFEGWAY PHARMACY**  
309 SOUTHGATE  
Phone: (540) 825-5335  
**WAL-MART PHARMACY**  
801 JAMES MADISON HWY  
Phone: (540) 825-4114

Criminal Justice Services

Fiscal Year 2007-First & Second Quarter

J. Andrew Lawson, Director

With half of this fiscal year complete, probation placements continue to increase with a total of 480 placements with 388 offenders (some offenders have multiple placements). Below is the total through December 31, 2006, of offender service placements:

<u>Service Type</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Substance Abuse Testing	136
Substance Abuse Education	13
Substance Abuse Counseling	31
Short-term Detoxification	3
Long-term Inpatient	7
Shoplifters Group	6
Anger Management	10
Batterer’s Intervention Program	20
Community Service	302
Other (various services)	50

Offenders completed **8,267.50 hours of community service**, paid **\$5,700.50 in restitution**, and paid **\$72,662.85 in court costs**.

CJS began a **litter pickup program** in July 2006, with the hiring of a part-time Litter Control Officer. Offenders are assigned a section of County roadway for their community service. Offenders placed in the litter program are given community service credit for each mile they complete. Offenders in a six-month time frame, with the first two months being slow as the program was being developed, **cleaned 548 miles of county roads, completed 1,591 hours of community service and picked up 15,352 pounds or 7.68 tons of trash (not including approximately 75 automobile tires)**.

Have you become physically and/or verbally abusive to your spouse or significant other?  
Help is available.  
Contact Culpeper County Criminal Justice Services at 540-727-3450  
for a referral to a treatment provider.



# Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney

Gary Close

Plea agreements. Plea bargains. Different words but still the same thing. And, still the same reaction from most folks. They don’t like either. “It just seems like they are getting away with something,” is how one friend of mine described his reaction to seeing the words.

Given the fact that so many people dislike the idea of plea agreements why is it that almost universally prosecutors, police, and sheriff’s deputies use plea agreements throughout the United States? Certainly, given the public antipathy towards plea agreements, the easy course, and the most politically expedient course of action, is to stop using them. So why is it that elected prosecutors, knowing the public’s distaste for the general concept, continue to use plea agreements?

The answer is in the details.

First, let’s look at what constitutes a plea agreement. It is an agreement between the defendant and the prosecutor as to how a particular crime should be treated by the criminal justice system. Also a part of the decision making are two other parties: the victim, if there is one, and the law enforcement officer involved. Finally, any plea agreement has to be approved the judge. He or she has the power to accept or reject the agreement.

- There are four main factors that play into deciding whether a plea agreement is appropriate:
- **The strength of the evidence.** Not all cases are airtight. In fact most cases have flaws. That is the nature of the beast. Not the fault of anyone. Just the way things happen. Sometimes the facts are bad. Sometimes the witnesses either don’t present well or are very unwilling. Sometimes you want to protect the victims from the cut and thrust of court.
  - **Experience.** After awhile experienced prosecutors and officers have a pretty good idea of what a judge or jury is going to do in a particular case. After the 100<sup>th</sup> Assault and Battery or DUI it becomes pretty predictable.
  - **The Law.** Most people believe the law is black and white: absolute and clear cut. This is not in fact the case. It is true that it is against the law to hit someone. But what if it is done in self-defense? How do you decide, if it was in self-defense, that the force used was appropriate? What if the hitting was by accident? What if you intended to hit one person but hit another? What if you hit the person to defend another? These are all questions of law the answers of which are found in court cases and in the facts themselves. Sometimes the facts fit the law exactly. Sometimes not.
  - **The model sentence guidelines.** They are developed in Richmond by the Sentencing Commission, and they drive the criminal justice system not only in Culpeper but across the state. The concept is that sentences for particular crimes should be the same whether they occur in Culpeper or in Alexandria. While not mandatory the Circuit Court judge must explain in writing why he has varied from the guidelines. In Culpeper, as in all counties and cities in Virginia, the model sentence guidelines are followed in more than 75 percent of the cases before the court. Most people don’t realize that this is true even for jury trials. A jury recommends a sentence, but it is the judge who imposes the sentence. And when the judge imposes sentence, he must take into consideration the model sentence guidelines. The guidelines are

well known by defense counsel and by the prosecution and are always a consideration in any plea negotiation. This is true of felonies in Circuit Court as well as in General District Court.

Finally, before we answer the question of why pleas are used, we need to keep in mind a few other factors. First a guilty plea is not a plea agreement. People sometimes think that is the case when they hear that a person has pleaded guilty. I guess it is because the term plea is used. But a person may plead guilty to a charge at any time and without the agreement of the prosecution. Of course I can’t think of why a prosecutor would ever object to a defendant admitting guilt. Secondly, in Culpeper, the prosecutors take into account the wishes of the victim and the police. Many times both victim and police prefer a plea agreement. Thirdly, in Culpeper, plea agreements are usually a collaborative decision between prosecutors, police, and victims. Many agreements are subject to a peer review in the prosecutor’s office itself. They are never entered into lightly.

- So pleas are used when the model sentence guidelines apply. Many pleas refer to the guidelines or fall within the midpoint range of the guidelines. The thinking is this: if the judge is going to follow the guidelines if there is a trial, why not secure the guilty plea and agree to the guidelines? You get the same result and save valuable court and officer time.
- Pleas are used when the evidence or witnesses are weak for the prosecution, or when the law is not particularly helpful to the prosecution. The thinking is that a bird in hand is better than two in the bush. I would rather have the certainty of a conviction than risk a person getting off scot-free. These agreements are a compromise and often seem like less than what should have happened based on the charge. But again, I take the position it is better to get half a loaf than no loaf at all. Victims are always consulted and usually are asked to sign the agreement to show their approval.
- Pleas are used when it is clear from the evidence and the law that in that particular set of circumstances the judge is going to sentence in a predictable way. Again, this is a matter of saving valuable court and officer time. The result is the same whether the case is tried or not, since the sentence is predictable based on past experience.

I have often said that it is easier to try a case than to enter into a plea agreement. The preparation is usually the same. The difference is that if the public does not like the result, the prosecutor can point to the judge or jury in a trial but with a plea the prosecutor has to answer for the result. Nevertheless, plea agreements are useful tools in the fight for public safety. They save valuable resources, and they ensure that when a case is bad, there is at least some measure of accountability for criminal behavior.



Gary Close

## Portrait of President Ronald Reagan

Those who know Commonwealth Attorney Gary Close know he holds Ronald Reagan in high esteem. “The first thing I did when I took the position as Commonwealth’s Attorney was to hang a photo of President Reagan on my office wall,” Close said. That was in 1992. The photo still hangs in his personal office, but it has been joined by a larger painting. It was just recently hung in the new Commonwealth Attorney’s Office.

Close feels the painting has more than an artistic value.

“I think President Reagan was instrumental in the collapse of communism. And I feel that he brought a certain dignity and honor to the Presidency. I hope this painting will remind me and my successors of the qualities that make for a good public servant,” Close said.

St. Luke’s School Artistic Director Michelle Powell painted the 36”x28” oil portrait. It shows Reagan standing with arms crossed in front of the Berlin Wall at the spot where he challenged the Soviet Union to “tear down this wall.”

The idea of the painting originated with Close, but it was former Cedar Moun-

tain Supervisor Jimmy Lee who donated the funds to purchase it for the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office.

“In years to come I believe the citizens of Culpeper will come to treasure this painting and remember Mr. Lee as the reason for its existence,” Close said. “I can’t thank him enough for this contribution to the County.”

In the meantime the portrait is treasured by Close and his assistants---and admired by visitors from across the Commonwealth.





David L. DeJarnette  
Treasurer

## COUNTY of CULPEPER

www.culpepercounty.gov  
**Courthouse Building**  
 135 W. Cameron Street, Suite 7  
 P.O. Box 1447  
 Culpeper, VA 22701-6447

540/727-3442  
 Fax 4540/727-3478  
 ddejarnette@culpepercounty.gov



### **Notice to Taxpayers Regarding 2007 Vehicle Decal Sales**

As recommended by the Culpeper County Treasurer, the Board of Supervisors for Culpeper County approved in February 2007 the sale of **Permanent Vehicle Decals** beginning in 2007.

#### ***IMPORTANT CHANGES ARE AS FOLLOWS:***

The Permanent Decal will remain on the vehicle as long as you own this vehicle with a Culpeper County garage jurisdiction. This will eliminate the annual “scrape & stick” decal process for citizens who have not changed vehicles.

For 2007, you will need to complete the decal application form, send the amounts due and receive the new Permanent Decals. Beginning with tax year 2008, the annual license tax (decal fee) will be added to, and billed with, your annual personal property taxes due on or before December 5<sup>th</sup>. Billing the license tax and personal property tax jointly beginning in 2008 will help eliminate the annual “deadline stress” of the current April 15<sup>th</sup> decal expiration date and the long lines associated with annual decal sales.

Sales of the Permanent Decals will begin on March 1, 2007. The fee paid in 2007 will be for the period of April 16, 2007 to December 31, 2007 or approximately 70% of the year. Since this is a “transition” year and will change the annual license year from April 16<sup>th</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup> to the new January 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> license year, the 2007 license tax will be \$17.50 for automobiles & \$10.50 for motorcycles (70% of the current annual rate of \$25.00/year for automobiles and \$15.00/year for motorcycles).

For vehicles purchased after the current license year begins, a copy of the DMV registration showing a Culpeper County garage jurisdiction is required. New decals for vehicles purchased during the year will be prorated quarterly based on a twelve month license year, beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Duplicates for those decals lost, stolen or destroyed will continue to be \$3.00 (Signed Affidavit required from registered vehicle owner).

### **Prepayment of Personal Property or Real Estate Taxes**

Many citizens are not aware that they are able to make prepayments for their annual personal property or real estate taxes. By estimating your annual tax bill and making monthly, quarterly or semi-annual prepayments, these amounts will be credited on your annual tax bills, and you will then be responsible for the net amount due by December 5<sup>th</sup> of each tax year.

Although many citizens prefer to pay one full payment, others may benefit from the ability to divide their annual tax amounts into smaller, more manageable increments. Please contact my office to receive a Tax Prepayment Estimation form that will assist you with your personal financial budget and planning.



From Your Commissioner of the Revenue  
Terry L. Yowell



TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY:

Since you elected me your Commissioner of the Revenue, many of you have asked me to value Business Personal Property using a depreciation method/schedule. Historically this type of property has been valued using a percentage of original cost, currently 50%. A minimum percentage valuation is not uncommon; several localities still use this method. For many years, a minimum percentage valuation method was considered “business friendly” because “assessment officials did not want to tax new businesses right out of business in the first few years”.

Pursuant to the **Code of Virginia §58.1-3503, All Tangible Personal Property employed in a trade or business shall be valued by means of a percentage or percentages of original cost.**

More and more localities are moving to a percentage depreciation method to better determine fair market value. After having many conversations with citizens, including business owners, and receiving positive citizen input over the past two years, effective 2007, my office will begin using the depreciation schedule below to determine fair market value for Tangible Business Personal Property (including but not limited to: heavy construction machinery, hand tools, forest harvesting equipment, generating equipment, research and development equipment, furniture, fixtures, etc.) employed in a trade or business:

1 <sup>st</sup> year acquired (2006)	70% of cost
2 <sup>nd</sup> year acquired (2005)	60% of cost
3 <sup>rd</sup> year acquired (2004)	50% of cost
4 <sup>th</sup> year acquired (2003)	40% of cost
5 <sup>th</sup> year acquired (2002)	30% of cost
Minimum Assessment: 30% of cost	

Pursuant to the **Code of Virginia §58.1-3503, Programmable computer equipment and the peripherals used in business shall be valued by means of a percentage or percentages of original cost.** The schedule below will be used to determine fair market value for programmable computer equipment and peripherals used in business:

1 <sup>st</sup> year acquired (2006)	65% of cost
2 <sup>nd</sup> year acquired (2005)	50% of cost
3 <sup>rd</sup> year acquired (2004)	40% of cost
4 <sup>th</sup> year acquired (2003)	30% of cost
5 <sup>th</sup> year and prior (2002)	20% of cost
Minimum Assessment: 20% of cost	

Property acquired on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the tax year will be valued at 100% of the acquisition cost for that tax year.

Leased Property used in Business will be depreciated using the original acquisition date and the original contract price of such property. Property used in Business where the original acquisition date and/or cost is not available AND a field inspection has been made, the assessment of such property will be 100% of fair market value as determined by the Commissioner of the Revenue.

Each of the depreciation schedules are derived from comparing percentage depreciation schedules currently used by localities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Assessment methods can be found in the Tax Rates Publication as prepared by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service for Virginia Counties.

Each year, a reporting form is mailed to every business (that we are aware of) around the end of March. We ask that you provide an itemized list of property, giving the description, date acquired and original acquisition cost. If you have not provided this type of list in the past, we ask that you consider providing the requested information. A fair and equitable assessment can only be applied if you provide the necessary information to us. If you need help with this request, please contact me. If you need on site assistance, please contact me. If you need my help in arriving at a fair market value because you no longer have information OR you converted once personal property to use in a trade or business, please contact me. If you are not sure that the good or service you provide is considered acting in a trade or business, please contact me. At any time you have any questions, please contact me at 540-727-3443 or by email at [Tyowell@culpepercounty.gov](mailto:Tyowell@culpepercounty.gov)

Reminder: valuation and taxation are two separate and distinct functions. The Commissioner of the Revenue is charged by the Commonwealth with valuing property, and the tax rate applied to that value is determined by the Board of Supervisors.

Please also see article on page 14





# CULPEPER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

H. LEE HART, SHERIFF



### *Major Branch completes FBI National Academy*

On December 15, 2006, Major Jim Branch completed the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Major Branch graduated with 267 other law enforcement personnel in the 227<sup>th</sup> session and is now part of an elite organization recognized by law-enforcement officers worldwide. The program which has a two-year waiting list is designed for high-ranking law enforcement officers and teaches leadership and communication and establishes a network of contacts worldwide.

### *Culpeper Deputy honored by MADD*

Deputy Rusty Woodward was recognized for the second year in a row for DUI enforcement in Culpeper County. Deputy Woodward says he has zero tolerance for drivers who have been drinking. He made over 40 DUI arrests last year.

According to MADD 37% of all traffic deaths in 2005 were alcohol-related.



### *Shop with a Cop 2006*

On December 17, 2006, the annual Shop with a Cop event was held. Local law-enforcement officers took over 100 children shopping, using the proceeds from Sheriff Hart's Annual Golf Tournament which was held in August. Donations were also made to the Hospice of the Rapidan, Culpeper Hospice, Culpeper Senior Nutrition Site and Culpeper JROTC.

## Culpeper Regional Airport



We are well into 2007, and I hope everyone is healthy and happy. It is hard to believe where the time goes. In January of every year, the Airport Advisory Committee elects a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman for that year. For 2007 the Airport Advisory Committee Chairman is Michael Dale, and Vice Chairman is Bill Flathers. This will be the second term for both gentlemen. Mike has two planes based at the Airport and is also the Chairman for the Air Fest Subcommittee. Bill flies commercially and is a fairly new member to the advisory committee. Both gentlemen bring years of aviation expertise to the table and will ably carry us through 2007. The Airport Advisory Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Airport, and the public is welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings. The other members of the committee are: Tony Dias, Bob Yeaman, Dave Franklin, Earl Long, Bill Chase (Board of Supervisor representative) and Steve Nixon (Board of Supervisor alternate representative).

In January of 2006 the Airport was given a unique opportunity to test an advancement in biometric technology utilizing ultrasound waves for fingerprint identification. Our test market has gone so well, that this year we will be installing a new gate with this technology at the entrance to the t-hangar complex. We have also received some funds through the Virginia Department of Aviation and the Department of Homeland Security to help us with this project. It takes only a few minutes to log someone into the security database, and then you are set for future visits. What makes the Ultra-Scan so unique is that the machine can detect a fingerprint through dirt, grime, grease etc. Most biometric readers use glass for the imaging, and your finger must be free of any dirt, and the reader must be cleaned constantly for proper viewing. We hope that this technology eventually will be used to access all gates, the terminal building, flight school and various other areas requiring secure access.

Don't forget to check out our link from the County's website: [www.culpepercounty.gov](http://www.culpepercounty.gov) in reference to this year's Air Fest, which will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2007.

As always, if you would like to find out anything about our facility or White Hawk Aviation (Aircraft Maintenance and Flight School) just call us at the Airport, 540-825-8280. We are working together to help make your Aviation Dreams come to life.

## Civil Air Patrol

**Civil Air Patrol has a squadron in Culpeper.**

**The Minute Man Squadron**

**meets Tuesdays at Culpeper Regional Airport at 7 p.m.**

The Cadet program has spaces ready for students

between the ages of 12 and 18.



Cadet programs introduce young people to military life and offer leadership training.

If you would like to gain skills useful throughout your life, have an official record that you are a leader and a team worker, come and check out this opportunity.

Learn about aerospace and its related issues. Learn basic search and rescue skills. Enjoy airplane flights. Learn to appreciate your own strengths.

Perhaps CAP will lead you to your career choice. It will certainly help you to become a responsible citizen.

**For further information see [www.cap.gov](http://www.cap.gov)**

**Culpeper County Regional Airport—12517 Beverly Ford Road, Brandy Station, VA 22714**



# CULPEPER MINUTES

A Publication of  
The Culpeper County  
Board of Supervisors



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SPRING 2007

CULPEPER MINUTES

ISSUE TWENTY-SEVEN

**VIRGINIA  
Small Business  
Development  
Center**



Is there anyplace nearby where a small business owner can get assistance?

## Small Business Development Center

The Lord Fairfax Small Business Development Center (LFSBDC) provides assistance to new and established small businesses of the area. Our professionals are available to help you start, manage, or grow your business. You can meet in private with a business counselor for free one-on-one counseling to discuss your specific needs, or you can attend affordable small group training.

The SBDC provides assistance to aspiring entrepreneurs who need to understand the requirements for going into business, financial management, marketing, and business plan development and implementation.

The SBDC also assists the experienced business person who wants to expand his or her business, solve business problems, develop new ideas, enter new markets, or access capital.

The SBDC is just what growing and emerging businesses are looking for. You can count on professional guidance, experienced insight, practical solutions, and respect for confidentiality when you work with the SBDC.

Your local SBDC is the Lord Fairfax Small Business Development Center. They have a new part-time office in Culpeper at the Germanna Center for Advanced Technology at 18121 Technology Drive and also an office in Warrenton at the Lord Fairfax Community College. They can be reached in Culpeper at (540) 937-2919 or in Warrenton at (540) 351-1595.

**Your local SBDC: where business comes to talk business.**

By Ruth Cope, Business Counselor

**Telephone Number for Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT): 540-829-7500  
To report Road Hazards or Snow-Flood Conditions: 800-367-7623 Toll Free**